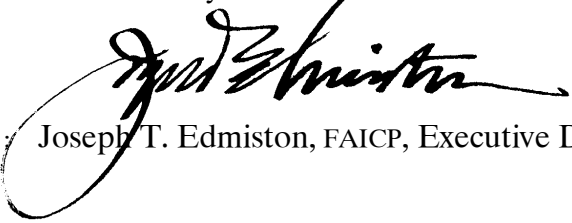


Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: February 27, 2006

From : 
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 17: Consideration of resolution authorizing augmentation of SMM-0464 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for Project Planning and Design services.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing augmentation of SMM-0464 in the amount of \$420,000 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for Project Planning and Design services.

Legislative Authority: Section 33204(c) of Public Resources Code.

Background: On August 30, 2004, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) authorized a grant of Proposition 50 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) in the amount of \$200,000 for Project Planning and Design Services in the Upper Los Angeles River Watershed and the coastal watershed portions of the Santa Monica Mountains Zone. On January 24, 2005, the SMMC augmented the grant by \$200,000. In early January 2006, MRCA staff found that expenses charged for activities in the Upper Los Angeles River watershed had exceeded the budgeted amount. The excess charges are less than \$20,000.

The MRCA's Natural Resources and Planning Division staff utilized the subject grant for approximately 16 months for activities directly related to the acquisition, protection and restoration of land and water resources and associated planning, permitting, and administrative costs for a subset of projects listed on the MRCA Workprogram. Additional work remains to be completed in both the coastal and Upper Los Angeles River watersheds. An augmentation in the amount of \$400,000 will allow these activities to continue through the 2006/2007 fiscal year. It is expected that the additional funds would be split 65%/35% between the Los Angeles River Watershed and the coastal watersheds, respectively. However, if this distribution is inadequate for either area, the MRCA will promptly notify the SMMC Chair and Executive Director and request written approval of a revised split.

A geographically specific project list was included with the original grant application, and included both land acquisition and improvement projects that protect land and water resources in order to reduce pollution, capture additional storm water runoff, protect and manage groundwater, reduce pollution of the Los Angeles River and its tributaries, and to provide habitat for fish and wildlife. An amended list has also been submitted for approval that includes

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project areas not contemplated in 2004.